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# WATER QUALITY M E M O R A N D U M

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

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April 21, 2010

TO: Internal File

THRU: James D. Smith, Permit Supervisor *DS 2 Apr 10*

FROM: Kevin Lundmark, Environmental Scientist II *KL*

RE: 2009, 4th Quarter Water Monitoring, Plateau Mining Corp. (PMC), Star Point Mine, C0070006, WQ09-4, Task ID #3441

The Star Point Mine is in reclamation. The mines have been closed and sealed since the spring of 2000. The disturbed areas around the portals have been regraded to AOC and seeded. Phase II Bond Release for 95.3 acres of land was approved January 2009. The reclamation water monitoring schedule for the Star Point Mine is provided in Table 731.211a in Chapter 7 of the MRP. The water quality analysis schedule is shown in Table 731.211b.

This report was prepared from monitoring data queried from the UDOGM database. The data that support this report were collected and submitted to the database by the Operator. The data were downloaded into file O:\007006.STP\Water Quality\Data\STP\_2010WQ.xls for this review.

## 1. Was data submitted for all of required sites?

**Springs** YES [ ] NO [ ]

Not applicable this quarter. Spring 971 is required to be monitored monthly during May and July through September. If snow prevents access during May the operator monitors in June.

**Streams** YES [X] NO [ ]

Surface Water sites ST-1 (North Fork of Right Fork Miller Creek) and 10-1 (Sage Brush Canyon above permit boundary) are to be monitored quarterly. No flow was reported at site 10-1 and site ST-1 was reported with a flow of 6.5 gpm.

**Wells**            YES ☐        NO ☐

Not Applicable. There are no active wells at the site.

**UPDES**           YES ☐        NO ☐

Not applicable. All UPDES discharge points have been reclaimed and the associated discharge monitoring points were inactivated by the DEQ Division of Water Quality in November 2004, therefore UPDES monitoring is no longer performed or reported to DEQ.

**2. Were all required parameters reported for each site?**

**Streams**           YES ☒        NO ☐

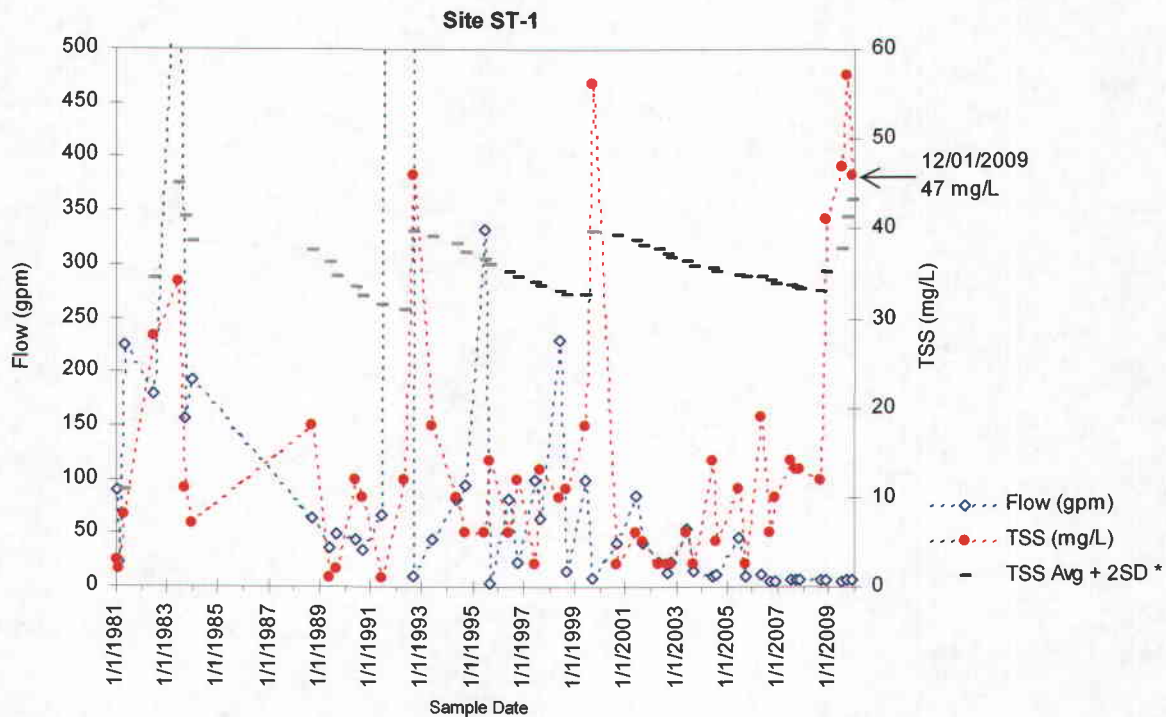
The required parameters were reported for site ST-1. No flow was reported at site 10-1.

**3. Were irregularities found in the data?**

**Streams**           YES ☒        NO ☐

The total suspended solids concentration of 47 mg/L in the sample collected December 1, 2009 at stream site ST-1 is elevated. The average TSS at this site is 16 mg/L with a standard deviation of 14 mg/L. The elevated TSS result for 4th Quarter 2009 does not appear to be due to high flow within the stream, as the reported flow was relatively low (6.5 gpm) compared to the reported average flow at site ST-1 of 102 gpm (MRP Chapter 7 Exhibit 728h). Applicable water quality criteria for TSS are not established for comparison; however, the discharge limitations for TSS in UPDES Permit UT0023736 for the Star Point Mine were 25 mg/L (30-day), 35 mg/L (7-day), and 70 mg/L (daily maximum).

The Operator has indicated that there is evidence of logging activities and cattle ranching occurring in the area which may be contributing suspended solids to the North Fork Right Fork Miller Creek.



\* The series "TSS Avg + 2SD" shows the value for the running (cumulative) average plus two times the associated standard deviation for the data set from 1981 through the sample date

The temperature reported for stream site ST-1 on December 1, 2009 (2.04 degrees C) is below the average temperature at this site by greater than two standard deviations. The cooler temperature measurement during 4th Quarter 2009 may be due to the timing of monitoring – this site is typically monitored in either October or November.

**4. On what date does the MRP require a five-year resampling of baseline water data.**

Resampling for baseline water quality parameters is required during year five of the mining permit (the year preceding permit renewal). The current permit expires January 28, 2012.

**5. Based on your review, what further actions, if any, do you recommend?**

None

**6. Does the Mine Operator need to submit more information to fulfill this quarter's monitoring requirements?**

Yes [ ]

No [X]